

ARMENIA***Two contracts to create favorable conditions for Armenian migrants in Russia: Armenia's Prime Minister***

Before Armenia's Accession to the Customs Union, the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation will sign two contracts. According to them more favorable migration conditions will be established in the Russian Federation for the citizens of Armenia.

<http://armenpress.am/eng/news/751700/two-contracts-to-create-favorable-conditions-for-armenian-migrants-in-russia-armenia%E2%80%99s-prime-minister.html>

Yanukovich Square In Armenian Town 'Renamed'

Young activists rename a Square located in the Armenian town of Spitak that was called Viktor Yanukovitch. They branded Yanukovich a dictator and blamed him for the vicious clashes between anti-government protesters and security forces in Kiev which have left dozens of people dead.

http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/25271457.html?utm_source=dvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

Report: "Armenia: Between Hope and Distrust"

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee's report on Armenia's civil society characterizes Armenia's citizens as being between hope and distrust. Salpi Ghazarian talks to Lene Wetteland, author of the report, about civil society's options and the report's recommendations. Ms. Wetteland also draws parallels with civil society efforts in Kyrgyzstan.

<http://civilnet.am/lene-wetteland-report-armenia-civil-society/>

31st January 2014, Sarkisian Honors Karabakh Soldiers on Armed Forces Day

As Armenia marked the 22nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day on Jan. 28, President Serge Sarkisian honored Karabakh soldiers, among them junior sergeant Armen Hovhannesian, who was killed defending Artsakh's borders.

<http://www.armenianweekly.com/2014/01/31/sarkisian-honors-karabakh-soldiers-on-armed-forces-day/>

Research: Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana, AEGEE-Tarragona

AZERBAIJAN***Parliament of Azerbaijan ratifies visa facilitation agreement with EU.***

After the sign during the the third Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius on November 29, Parliament of Azerbaijan ratified the agreement. The visa facilitation agreement reduces the Schengen visa application fees for Azerbaijani citizens from 60 to 35 euros, and will also reduce the number of documents required for obtaining it.

<http://www.news.az/articles/politics/86272>

Azerbaijan and UNESCO sign agreement.

Azerbaijan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed a Young Professional Program cooperation agreement. The agreement will allow young Azerbaijani specialists to work in the UNESCO Secretariat and gain international experience.

<http://en.apa.az/news/206122>

Azad Rahimov: "Azerbaijani youth will have a very interesting year"

The implementation of "Azerbaijani youth in 2011-2015" continues. During 2014, several organizations of events will be still directed to improving the youth policy, creating conditions for active participation of the youth in management, ensuring employment of the young specialists and solving other socio-economic problems.

<http://www.news.az/articles/society/86266>

Azerbaijani universities entered World Rankings

3 Azerbaijani Universities entered in QS world ranking. These ratings are carried out by specialized global organizations. They research the quality of education processes and determine the levels of world institutions based on extremely varied and significant factors.

<http://www.today.az/news/society/130737.html>

Research: Damiano Deidda, AEGEE-Cagliari

BELARUS***Peace and stability are the most important victories of Sovereign Belarus***

A reliable system of national security created in Belarus allows for timely response to any challenges and threats, President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko said as he met with senior officers of the Armed Forces and law enforcement bodies to mark Day of Fatherland Defenders and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus.

http://www.belarus.by/en/press-center/news/peace-and-stability-are-the-most-important-victories-of-sovereign-belarus_i_0000010011.html

Stadler Rail Group promised all possible assistance for joint venture in Belarus

All the possible assistance will be provided to the Swiss company Stadler Rail Group for the sake of further implementation of the joint venture in Belarus. Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko made the statement as he met with the company's Director General Peter Spuhle.

http://www.belarus.by/en/press-center/news/stadler-rail-group-promised-all-possible-assistance-for-joint-venture-in-belarus_i_0000010088.html

Making movies in Belarusian style: "Something is wrong".

Early 4000 young people were to storm the Government House in Minsk in the early hours on February 3rd. A blocked Independence Avenue, Special Forces of the Ministry of Interior Affairs, real fights on the steps of the Government House. And even a real car explosion near the monument to Lenin.

<http://www.civicbelarus.org/index.php/en/all-articles-in-the-section/34-aktualne/209-belorusky-film-neco-tu-nehraje>

Lukashenko urges to make better use of EU's interest in strong border with Belarus

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko deems it necessary to make better use of the EU's interest in strong border with Belarus. Belarusian President made this statement at an extended session of the State Border Committee to discuss border protection.

http://www.belarus.by/en/press-center/news/lukashenko-urges-to-make-better-use-of-eus-interest-in-strong-border-with-belarus_i_0000009612.html

Research: Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana, AEGEE-Tarragona

GEORGIA***Georgia advances with 17 positions: 84th in Press Freedom Index***

Georgia is the 84th among 180 states in the report of Reporters Without Borders, the official site of the organization informs. Georgia improved its position by 17 compared to the previous year.

<http://www.georgianews.ge/society/26298-georgia-advances-with-17-positions-84th-in-press-freedom-index.html>

Parties and civil society trigger electoral reforms discussion

Electoral system reform is not so harmonious and agreement among political parties, civil society and international organizations is uncertain.

http://www.georgiatoday.ge/article_details.php?id=11926

Heated political atmosphere ahead of local elections in Georgia

February has seen fierce political debate between non-parliamentary opposition parties and the ruling Georgian Dream coalition amid confusion about how local elections, which are expected to take place in June, will be run.

http://www.georgiatoday.ge/article_details.php?id=11925

Analysis of Georgia-Russian relations by Michael Cecire, scholar at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Black Sea-Eurasia regional analyst and an Associate Scholar at the Foreign Policy Research Institute Michael Cecire published an article on Georgia-Russian relations at The American Interest website.

<http://www.georgianews.ge/politics/26291-georgia-and-russia-play-nice--the-american-interest.html>

Research: Ivan Bielik, AEGEE-Brno

MOLDOVA***About 350 settlements adopt declarations supporting Moldova's European integration***

Representatives of local administrations continue to adopt declarations supporting Moldova's European integration, as a response to an urge by the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (PLDM), Vlad Filat.

<http://www.allmoldova.com/en/moldova-news/1249057719.html>

European Parliament votes lifting visas for Moldovans

The Foreign and European Integration Ministry welcomes the today's decision by the European Parliament on lifting the visa regime for Moldovans, the Foreign and European Integration Ministry's communication and media relations service has reported.

<http://www.moldova.md/en/news/1211/1/4291/>

Moldovan foreign minister meets Latvian, Lithuanian counterparts

Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and European Integration Minister Natalia Gherman met Latvian and Lithuanian Foreign Ministers Edgars Rinkēvičs and, respectively Linas Linkevičius, on a joint visit to Moldova on February 2014.

<http://www.moldova.md/en/news/1211/1/4289/>

Official language becomes subject for heated discussions in Parliament

Romanian or Moldovan? The lawmakers argued again over the subject of the official language when they were to vote for the ratification of an agreement on bilateral customs cooperation with Spain. The relevant bill provides that the text is in the Moldovan language. This aroused the dissatisfaction of the Liberal MPs.

<http://www.allmoldova.com/en/moldova-news/1249057680.html>

Research: Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana, AEGEE-Tarragona

UKRAINE***Crimea becomes the hot spot of Russia-Ukraine tensions***

The United States told Russia to demonstrate that it was sincere about its promise not to intervene in Ukraine as armed men stormed the regional parliament in Crimea and hours later, in the morning of 28 February, others seized the airport in a mainly ethnic Russian region.

<http://www.euractiv.com/europes-east/crimea-hot-spot-russia-ukraine-t-news-533833>

Russia's Putin orders government to work with partners on Ukraine

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered his government to continue talks with Ukraine on economic and trade relations and to consult foreign partners including the IMF and the G8 on financial aid, a statement on the Kremlin's website said.

www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/28/us-ukraine-crisis-putin-idUSBREA1R07520140228

Ukraine leader warns Russia after armed men seize government HQ in Crimea

Armed men seized the regional government headquarters and parliament in Ukraine's Crimea on Thursday and raised the Russian flag, alarming Kiev's new rulers, who urged Moscow not to abuse its navy base rights on the peninsula by moving troops around.

www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/27/us-ukraine-crisis-crimea-idUSBREA1P23U20140227

Yatseniuk, confirmed as prime minister, accuses Yanukovich administration robbing Ukraine of \$70 billion; 'treasury is empty'

About \$70 billion has been withdrawn from Ukraine's financial system over the last three years, new Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said on Feb. 27, alleging corruption on a scale that not even graft-ridden Ukrainian has ever seen.

www.kyivpost.com/content/politics/yatseniuk-yanukovich-administration-robbed-ukraine-of-70-billion-337772.html

Research: Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana, AEGEE-Tarragona



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